

Single Mothers at Parkland College

Difficulties Faced by Single Mothers at Parkland College

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Lack of Time for their Children or Homework

- Not enough time to work (to support children & college)
- Their children's & their own homework
- No one to look after children
- Mothers unable to provide quality time

“I get up early... leave school early to spend time with kids.... and stay up late to do homework & housework”.

Low Energy and High Stress Levels

- Have to arrange schedule around child care
- Only able to work or study late at night
- Lack of sleep and support can cause students to fall behind

“If the babysitter cancels, I can’t go to class”.

Financial Troubles

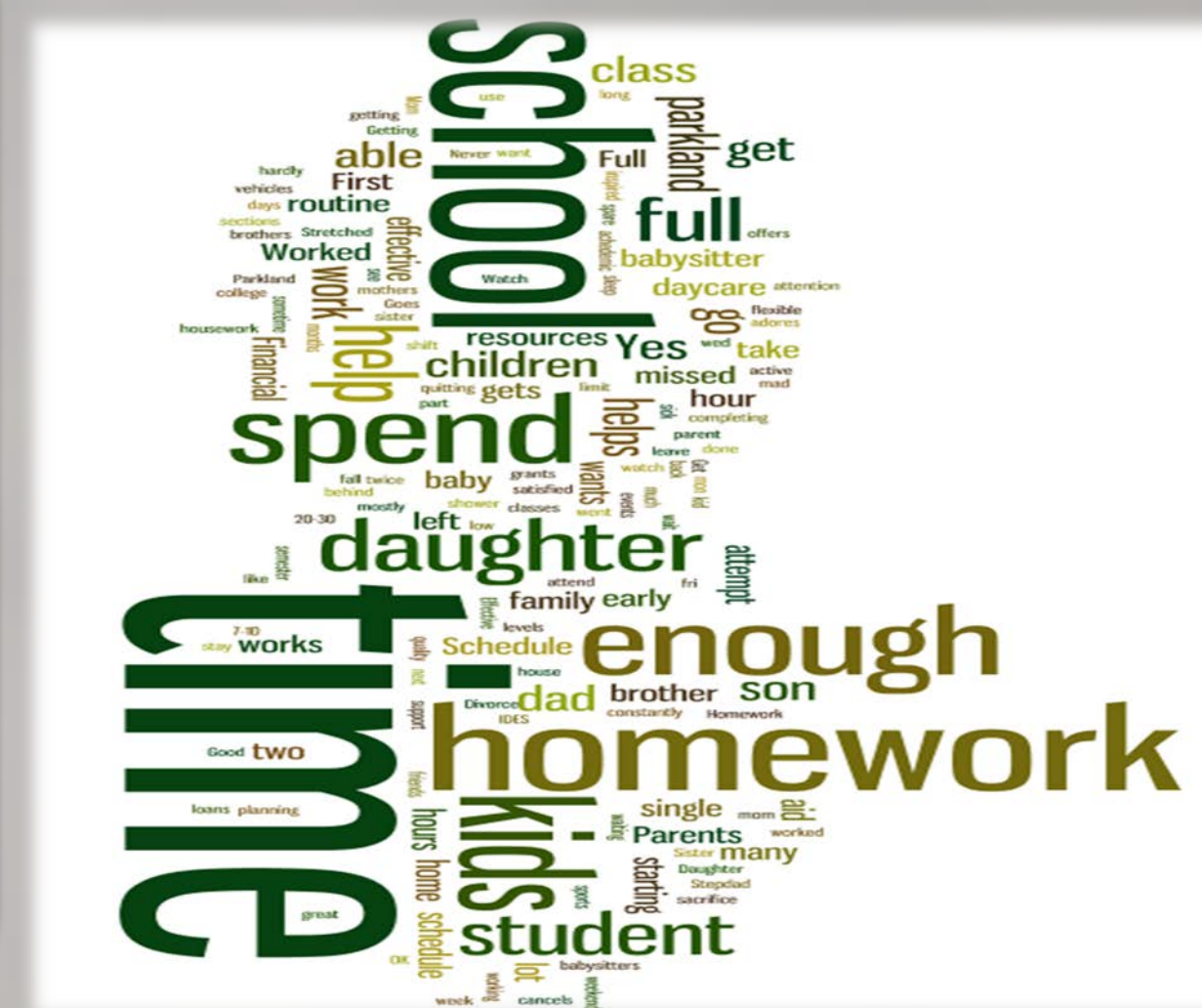
- Not having time to do it all: Study, work and children
- VERY limited Parkland single mother scholarships
- No time to work enough hours to pay for school and children

“Its like a marriage, you have work hard and sacrifice a lot to do both”.

Resources Parkland Provides for Single Mothers.

- Parkland offers very limited resources PRIMARILY for single mothers
- The nursing program offers a scholarship for single mothers of only 500 dollars
 - General Aid resources include:
 - Pell Grant & FAFSA
- Child daycare BUT parkland students receive no special benefits. (Family income - \$0-\$25,975 the cost of daycare is \$33 for a full day)

“My daughter is too young (for Parkland daycare), the starting age is 15 months and on top of that there is a long waiting list”.



Resources Parkland Could Provide for Single Mothers.

- Southern Illinois University offers an EMPAC (Empowering & Motivating Parents Across Campus) support group, support for single parents academically, and socially allowing them to make supportive connections on campus. Something similar at parkland would be helpful.
 - Scholarships specifically for single mothers, offering a sum that would make a difference for mothers who are struggling to pay tuition.
- Discount at the daycare for Parkland students, especially if they are enrolled fulltime, as well as lowering the minimum age to help single moms continue their education.